

Viewed in this light, the affinity of the Spongiadæ to the Protozoa rather than to the Cœlenterata makes itself eminently conspicuous. Compared with the latter subkingdom, it is evident that the sponges possess a very much lower degree of organization and an essentially different type of structure, while at the same time their occasionally differentiated and consolidated dermal membrane, their development, in some instances, of primitive fibrous tissue, and their complex interstitial canal-system entitle them, in a natural and morphological system of classification, to be ranked as the highest representatives of the Protozoa.

XXII.—*Descriptions of some new Species of Birds from Southern Asia.* By ARTHUR, Viscount WALDEN, P.Z.S. &c.

Sitta neglecta, n. sp.

Above pale slate-colour. Stripe from nostrils, through the eyes to nape, black. Lores, supercilium, cheeks, chin, and base of primaries white. Throat tawny white. Breast pale rufous, deepening into dark rusty on remainder of lower surface. Under tail-coverts white, with narrow rusty edgings. Middle rectrices uniform slate-colour. Wing 3 inches; bill $\frac{4}{8}$ inch.

Three examples of this Nuthatch were obtained from the Karen Hills of the Toungoo district, Burma. It differs from its nearest ally, *S. himalayensis*, J. & S., by its much stouter and longer bill, by the deep ferruginous tint of the under surface, and by the absence of a white spot on the basal half of the middle rectrices.

Passer assimilis, n. sp.

Resembles *P. cinnamomeus*, Gould, but differs by being smaller, by having a slenderer and smaller bill, and by having the cheeks and sides of the neck pure white, and the breast, flanks, and ventral region ashy grey. Wing $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tail $1\frac{6}{8}$, or nearly half an inch shorter than in *P. cinnamomeus*.

From Toungoo.

Glaucomyias sordida, n. sp.

General colour ashy grey, washed with a faint tinge of blue or greenish blue. Forehead, supercilium, chin, and lesser shoulder-coverts deep pure blue. Under shoulder-coverts, axillaries, vent, and under tail-coverts white. Tail brown, with a dingy gloss of dark green. Bill, legs, and claws black. Lores black. Wing nearly 3 inches; tail $2\frac{6}{8}$; tarsus $\frac{5}{8}$; fourth and fifth quills equal; third nearly as long; second still shorter

than third; first half the length of second. Bill lengthened and much hooked.

Four examples of this very distinct species were sent to me from Ceylon. I am not certain that it should not be classed as a *Cyornis*, near to *C. unicolor*, Blyth. At first sight it resembles an immature *G. melanops*, Vigors.

Prinia albogularis, n. sp.

Upper surface, cheeks, and sides of neck ashy brown, faintly tinged with olive. Quills and upper surface of tail brown. Quills edged externally with rufous. Chin, throat, ventral region, and under tail-coverts pure white. Breast and flanks ashy grey, the grey breast contrasting strongly with the white throat. Tail consisting of ten feathers, each of which, except the middle pair, is tipped with white, which forms an edging to a black terminal spot; remaining under surface of tail pale grey. Under shoulder-coverts, thigh-coverts, and inner webs of all the quills rufous. Bill black. Legs pale flesh-colour. Fourth, fifth, and sixth quills equal and longest; third and seventh equal and a little shorter; second a quarter of an inch shorter than third; first half the length of third. Tail 2 inches, wing $1\frac{7}{8}$, tarsus $\frac{1}{6}$.

From Coorg.

The broad ash-coloured pectoral band is a striking character in this species.

Megalaima inornata, n. sp.

The large green Barbet of South-western India has hitherto been confounded with that of Central India, *M. caniceps* (Franklin). That of South-western India, to which I give the above title, is to be distinguished from all the other known green Barbets by having the chin, throat, breast, and upper portion of the abdominal region uniform pale brown. Each feather has the shaft, very faintly, paler. The plumage above closely resembles that of *M. caniceps*; but the terminal spots on the wing-coverts and tertiaries are almost altogether wanting. The dimensions of both species are nearly alike, but the bill of *M. caniceps* (ex Maumbhoom) is shorter and not so stout. The absence of the broad pale median streaks on the pectoral plumage readily distinguishes this species.

Described from two Malabar examples, two from Coorg, and three from Candeish.

Buchanga leucogenis, n. sp.

General colour pale, delicate slate-grey, or French grey. Chin, narial plumes, and terminal portion of the primaries black. An oval patch on each side of the head, surrounding

the eyes and extending from the base of the bill to beyond the cheeks, pure white. Bill and feet black. Wing $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail $5\frac{1}{2}$. Immature birds have the grey tint more or less sordid, and the white facial patch indistinct.

This well-characterized species of Drongo has hitherto been mistaken for the *Dicrurus leucophaeus*, Vieill.; but, as Vieillot's title was founded on Levaillant's 170th plate (Ois. d'Afr.), it must be referred to *D. cineraceus*, Horsf., over which designation it takes precedence. The *white-faced Drongo* inhabits Malacca, Cambodja, China, and Japan, being probably only a migrant to the two latter countries. The above description is taken from a Nagasaki example.

Buchanga mouhoti, n. sp.

Belongs to the "Ashy Drongos" (P. Z. S. 1866, p. 546), and was obtained by M. Mouhot in Cambodja. Above ashy grey or plumbeous, rather darker than in *B. leucophaea*, ex Java. Under surface lighter ashy, but darker than in the Javan species. Upper surface of middle rectrices grey, as in the Javan bird. Wing $5\frac{2}{8}$ inches; outer tail-feathers $5\frac{6}{8}$, middle tail-feathers $5\frac{2}{8}$; difference between outer and middle pairs $1\frac{4}{8}$; bill from nostril full $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch.

A species intermediate in dimensions and colouring between *B. leucophaea* and *B. pyrrhops*, Hodgs.

Buchanga wallacei, n. sp.

Above dark ashy green, with a silky gloss. Underneath a shade lighter, but without any gloss, except on the breast. Upper surface of rectrices glossy greenish brown; no traces of ash-colour. Bifurcation of the tail moderate. Wing 5 inches to $5\frac{1}{2}$; outer tail-feathers 5 inches, middle pair 4 inches.

Described from specimens obtained in Lomboek by Mr. Wallace.

XXIII.—*List of the Bones of Seals and Whales in the Colonial Museum, Wellington, New Zealand.* By Dr. JAMES HECTOR, F.R.S. With Notes by Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S.

SEALS.

1. *Stenorhynchus leptonyx*, Gray, Cat. Seals and Whales, p. 16. One skull. (Two stuffed specimens in the Dunedin Museum, one in Christchurch.)

This seal is not uncommon, several individuals being stranded on the east coast every winter.

Dunedin specimen described in Trans. New-Zealand Inst. vol. ii., by J. S. Webb.